

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01040 080744Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 ICA-20 PM-05 DODE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /064 W
-----055844 082325Z /64-61

R 071339Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2574
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1040

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EEC, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN WORKER ACTION DAY

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 6547, (B) HELSINKI 0968 (NOTAL)

1. THE ETUC WORKER ACTION DAY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT
APRIL 5 (REFA) WAS OBSERVED QUIETLY BY THE FINNISH
LABOR MOVEMENT. THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF FINNISH
TRADE UNIONS (SAK) AND THE CONFEDERATION OF SALARIED
EMPLOYEES (TVK) HELD JOINT RALLIES AT WHICH THEY
APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND STIMULATION OF CONSUMPTION.
WHILE A RESOLUTION INCLUDING THIS APPEAL WAS PASSED,
NO DELEGATION WAS SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT, AS SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER SORSA WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY
ON APRIL 5 AND THE SAK CONSIDERED THAT FULL DIALOGUE
ALREADY EXISTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT
OF LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT ON A NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM
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(REF B).

2. A RALLY OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING WAS ALSO
ARRANGED BY A NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED THE NATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE UNEMPLOYED, A GROUP SPONSORED AND
CONTROLLED BY THE RADICAL LEFT-WING MINORITY OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY. ONLY THE LEADER OF THIS MINORITY

AND TWO OTHER MPS FROM THE GROUP APPEARED TO LISTEN TO THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 250 PARTICIPANTS IN THE RALLY. ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY OBSERVER, THE SPEAKER CRITICIZED ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE WEST, INCLUDING THE FINNISH PURCHASE OF HAWK JETS FROM GREAT BRITAIN, AND DESCRIBED PLANS TO ORGANIZE FINLAND'S 200,000 UNEMPLOYED ON A NATION-WIDE BASIS. THE SAK DECLINED AN INVITATION TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS RALLY. ACCORDING TO A SAK SOURCE, THE MAJORITY COMMUNISTS (TO WHICH THE MINISTER OF LABOR BELONGS) AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT DO NOT VIEW MILITANT ACTION BY THE UNEMPLOYED AS RELEVANT IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC-POLITICAL SITUATION.

RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

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